



INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS & LANGUAGE

Policy Title	Deferral, Suspension, Cancellation and Non-commencement of Student Enrolment Policy and Procedure				
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1. POLICY

ANIT Australia Pty Ltd T/A Albright Institute of Business and Language will ensure that the student's deferments and suspensions are carried out in accordance with the standards set out by the ESOS Act and National Code of Practice 2018.

2. PURPOSE

This policy outlines the circumstances for the application, assessment and approval of the deferment, suspension, leave of absence or cancellation of enrolment when instigated by either student or Albright Institute and subsequent reporting requirements via PRISMS.

Under the Standard 9 of The National Code allows students to defer commencement of studies, take a leave of studies, or temporarily suspend their studies during their program where compassionate or compelling circumstances exist. It covers student access to complaints' and appeals' mechanisms if a provider initiates a suspension or cancellation of enrolment against a student's wishes. Standard 9 states that registered providers may only enable students to defer or temporarily suspend their studies, including granting a leave of absence, during the course through formal agreement in certain limited circumstances.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all the current international students of Albright Institute studying on-shore, holding a student visa.

4. DEFINITIONS

Deferment: Postponement of the commencement of a course of study. Must occur prior to start of a new academic term or a study period.

Suspension: Temporary postponement of an undertaken course of study. May occur at any time during an academic term or a study period.

Cancellation: Termination of enrolment.

Course: means a course of education or training as defined in the ESOS Act.

CoE: Confirmation of Enrolment.

PRISMS: The Provider Registration and International Student Management System.

Study Period: A discrete period of study within a course. Albright Institute uses "Term" to define a study period. The term duration, usually a contact period of ten (10) weeks, is considered a study period.

Compassionate or compelling circumstances: are generally those beyond the control of the student and which have an impact upon the student's course progress or wellbeing. These could include, but are not limited to:

- serious illness or injury, where a medical certificate states that the student was unable to attend classes
- bereavement of close family members such as parents or grandparents (Where possible a death certificate should be provided)
- major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country requiring emergency travel and this has impacted on the student's studies; or
- a traumatic experience which could include:
 - involvement in, or witnessing of a serious accident; or
 - witnessing or being the victim of a serious crime, and this has impacted on the student (these cases should be supported by police or psychologists' reports)
- where the registered provider was unable to offer a pre-requisite unit; or
- Inability to begin studying on the course commencement date due to delay in receiving a student visa.

5. REQUIREMENTS, PROCESS AND PROCEDURE

5.1 Deferral, Suspension, or Cancellation: Instigated by the Institute

Students may also have their enrolment deferred, suspended or cancelled by Albright Institute in the event of:

- Misbehaviour (as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, and Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct Policy);
- Breach of the Student Agreement (e.g., non-payment of fees);
- If the student behaves in a way which could potentially bring the Institute into disrepute;
- While implementing its intervention strategy for students at risk of not meeting satisfactory course progress (including where the student is clearly having difficulty in completing the course within the expected duration, as specified on the student's CoE).

Albright Institute shall send a written notification of intention to defer, suspend, or cancel the student's enrolment. Students have 20 working days to the right to appeal a decision by Albright Institute to defer, suspend or cancel their studies and the Institute will not notify the Department of Home Affairs via PRISMS of a change to the enrolment status until the internal complaints and appeals process is completed.

If the deferral, suspension or cancellation of a student's enrolment is initiated by Albright Institute, the student will be notified in writing and given twenty (20) working days to access Albright Institute's internal complaints and appeals process. In case of cancellation on Non-commencement of the course, no notice is given to the students.

After all due processes have been completed, and Albright Institute decides to defer, suspend or cancel a student's enrolment, a designated Albright Institute staff must notify the Department of Home Affairs via PRISMS within 14 days of the change to the student's enrolment status.

In the event, of Albright Institute cancelling a student's enrolment due to a breach of a condition of a student visa, Albright Institute's designated staff must give the Department of Home Affairs particulars of this breach via PRISMS as soon as practicable after the breach.

5.2 Deferring / Suspending a Course of Study: Instigated by Student.

Students wishing to defer or suspend (temporary) their enrolment may only do so when there are compelling or compassionate circumstances. Compelling or compassionate circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- serious illness or injury, where a medical certificate states that the overseas student was unable to attend classes;
- bereavement of close family members such as parents or grandparents (where possible a death certificate should be provided);
- major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country requiring emergency travel and this has impacted on the overseas student's studies;
- a traumatic experience, which could include:
 - involvement in, or witnessing of a serious accident; or
 - witnessing or being the victim of a serious crime, and this has impacted on the overseas student (these cases should be supported by police or psychologists' reports)
- Where the registered provider was unable to offer a pre-requisite unit, or the overseas student has failed a prerequisite unit and therefore faces a shortage of relevant units for which they are eligible to enrol.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DEFERMENT /SUSPENSION OF A COURSE OF STUDY:

Students will need to substantiate their claims for deferment /suspension with appropriate supporting documentation.

- Deferral or suspension of studies cannot be used for personal travelling, undertaking hobbies, working or taking holidays/breaks, and will not be approved on such grounds.
- Students who would like to defer the commencement of their studies must approach the Admissions Department by email.
- Students who would like to suspend their current course of study must approach the Student Administration Department by email.
- If an application for deferment and suspension is being approved or denied, the outcome will be notified to the applicant in writing and, if denied, reasons for the refusal will be given.
- In the event of an application for deferment or suspension of studies being approved, a designated ABL Administration Officer will notify the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) via PRISMS within 14 days of the change to the student's enrolment status.
- In case of deferment of an intake, a revised letter of offer with revised payment plan and a revised COE will be sent to the student.
- In case of suspension of studies, a revised letter of offer with revised payment plan, a revised COE, timetable and a study plan for the units the student might have missed during the suspension period will be sent to the student.
- Admissions updates the course resumption date on PRISMS by 'Commencing' the CoE.
- Student is not expected to make the payment towards tuition fee during the period of suspension.

FOR DEFERMENT OF AN INTAKE:

- The Change of Enrolment Form must be completed and submitted to the student admissions team with verifiable supporting documents. The form can be obtained from Albright Institute website.
- The first request for deferment of an intake will be considered as free of charge.

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- After the first deferment of intake, any subsequent deferment request will attract a fee of AUD\$200/-, and the Change of Enrolment form will not be processed until the fee has been paid.
- The student is required to make this payment at the time of lodging this Enrolment form request.
- To process the request of deferment of an intake date; AIBL requires – the completed Enrolment form with deferment dates, the required evidences (compassionate grounds/ visa delay etc.) and the evidence of payment of AUD\$200/- paid towards this request. The deferment will be then processed within seven (7) working days.
- Deferral can be sought for a minimum of three months and a maximum of twelve months.
- Multiple deferrals can be sought, for example you can apply for a second deferral at the end of the first one; however, Albright Institute will assess each application on its own merits and does not guarantee that any particular application will be approved.
- There is a maximum of three deferrals allowed for any one enrolment. After this, Albright Institute reserves the right to reject a fourth deferral application regardless of the reason.
- After obtaining three deferrals/suspension, if the student still requires another deferral then the student will be considered as a new enrolment. A new letter of offer with the current tuition fee and non-tuition fee will be applicable.
- On-shore deferment of studies is considered ONLY on exceptional compassionate reasons assessed by AIBL.

FOR SUSPENSION OF STUDIES DURING THE STUDY OF A COURSE:

- Prior to applying to suspend their studies, students must ensure that they have paid any outstanding course fees applicable till the date of request of suspension of studies.
- The Change of Enrolment Form must be completed and submitted to the student administration team with verifiable supporting documents. The form can be obtained from Albright Institute website.
- The form must be submitted at least fourteen (14) working days prior to the requested suspension date.
- To process the request of suspension of studies; AIBL requires – the completed Change of Enrolment form with suspension and resumption dates, flight tickets of up and down travel, the compassionate reasons (medical certificate, death in the immediate family etc.)
- The deferment will be then processed within fourteen (14) working days.
- On-shore deferment/suspension of studies is considered ONLY on exceptional compassionate reasons assessed by AIBL.

DEFERMENT/SUSPENSION PROCEDURE

The processing officer process the deferment/suspension as below:

- A revised letter of offer is generated from the SMS – RTOM with the new start and end dates.
- In case of deferment of an intake, the next closest available intake date is offered to the student.
- In case of suspension of studies, the duration of suspension is calculated and then the closest intake date to the return from suspension date is offered to the student.

- The processing officer then notifies the Department of Education and Training and Department of Home Affairs (DHA) through PRISMS that they are deferring or suspending an overseas student's enrolment for a period which will affect the end date of the CoE.
- The Student course variation is created on the original CoE and a new CoE with a new end date is generated.

5.3 COVID-19 Pandemic and the Closure of Australian borders

This applies ONLY to students who are making their application from offshore and whomust travel across the Australian border to commence their course.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the Australian government temporarily closing the borders. This will prevent offshore students who have a CoE from arriving in Australia and commencing their course.

In a case where the student cannot commence because of closed borders, the student will be required to apply for a deferral.

- The usual \$200 fee for a second deferral application will be waived if the student is applying because the borders are closed. The request it will be processed as normal, with no delay.
- The usual limit of three deferrals per enrolment will be waived if you are applying because the borders are closed.
- One month before the end of the deferral, if the borders are expected to remain closed two weeks prior to the new start date, you may apply for the cancellation of your CoE and the refund of your pre-paid course fees. The application will be granted, and the refund will be paid, minus any applicable administration fees. For further details, see the Student Refund Policy and Procedure.
- Deferral or cancellation and refund will only be approved for the closure of the Australian borders if it is reasonably likely that the borders will still be closed two weeks prior to the course start date. This means that either the government has announced that the borders will not be open on that date, or the government has made no announcement by a period two-weeks before that date.

5.4 Withdrawing from a course of study

- The Current Students who are intending to have their enrolment cancelled from the course/s are required to complete the 'Withdrawal Form' available on the AIBL website and submit this to the student administration department by email.
- The students must ensure that they have paid any outstanding course fees till the date of the submission of the Withdrawal form.
- The Withdrawal from Course Form should be accompanied by:
 - a valid letter of offer from another provider;
 - A detailed email explaining clearly the reasons for seeking withdrawal from AIBL course/s

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- If a student is intending to withdraw prior to the completion of six months of the principal course of study which is termed as Restricted Period; they should be directed to AIBL's website for the Albright Institute's Transfer between Providers Policy and Procedure which details the requirement of Standard 7 of The National Code of Practice 2018.
- The assessment of the Withdrawal from Course Form will begin for - a completed Form with the valid Letter of Offer from the new provider, the detailed email explaining the reason for seeking withdrawal and the evidence of the fee paid till the date of this request.
- The assessment and processing of the request will be done within twenty one (21) working days from the date of the fully completed form with the requirements mentioned above.
- In the event that a student's application for withdrawal from an enrolled course(s) is approved, a designated Institute Administration Officer will notify the Department of Home Affairs via PRISMS within 14 days of the change to the student's enrolment status.
- In the event that a student's application for withdrawal from an enrolled course(s) is refused, the student will be communicated this decision within five (5) working days. They will be advised to continue their studies for their satisfactory course progress and honour the existing payment plan.
- The Possible reasons for refusal of withdrawal and release on PRISMS are mentioned below, but are not restricted to:
 - A student requesting a transfer has an inaccurate understanding of what the transfer represents to the study options;
 - The student still owes Albright Institute course fees;
 - It is suspected that the student is seeking transfer only to avoid being reported to DHA for failure to meet course progress requirements;
 - Albright Institute considers this transfer to be detrimental to the student's interests;
 - The reasons stated for the request to transfer have not been adequate;
 - The transfer does not appear to be for the purpose of an educational or career-oriented benefit;
 - The course requested transfer to is the same or similar to the currently enrolled course(s);
 - The primary reason for a transfer request is for a different class schedule which is more suited to the student's current or anticipated employment interests, or other non-educational interest.
- Where the student requires and requests a grant of a release in the in the restricted period, Albright may exercise appropriate discretion and consider the above mentioned reasons.
- **Important Note - Visa implications**
Leave of absence, deferral, suspension or cancellation of enrolment may have implications for a student's visa; especially if the course end data has been changed.

The Institute recommends that students seek appropriate advice regarding these implications. The Institute does not provide immigration advice to students.

5.5 Reporting Non-commencement of course - initiated by ALBRIGHT INSTITUTE

- **For New Student:** Albright Institute cancels the student's enrolment after the Census Date (two weeks) from the date of the course start date and will report to the DHA via PRISMS for Non – commencement. The student will NOT be entitled for a release from Albright Institute.
- **Current Student (Pathway):** If the student previous course falls on the term end date of our Academic calendar (not mid-term) Albright Institute cancels the student's enrolment after the Census date (two weeks) from the date of the course start date and will report to the DHA via PRISMS for Non – commencement. The student will NOT be entitled for a release from Albright Institute.
- If the student previous course end date falls within the mid- term end date of our Academic calendar, Albright Institute cancels the student after 30th day from the date of the course start date and will report to the DHA via PRISMS for Non – commencement. The student will NOT be entitled for a release from Albright Institute.

6. APPEAL

The student will be notified in writing of the outcome once the decision is made on deferral, suspension, cancellation and/or exclusion for either reasons initiated by the student or the Institute including reasons for the decision. Student should also refer to Albright Institute's Complaints and Appeals Policy www.AlbrightInstitute.edu.au for information on lodging an appeal against a decision.

7. RESPONSIBILITY

The Chief Operation Officer and National Quality and Compliance Manager is responsible for effective implementation and management of this policy as well as provision of information on ways to resolve complaints of breaches of this policy.

8. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Related Documents

STD-FORM02 Request of Change of Enrolment Status
PP-07 International Student Refund Policy and Procedure
PP-09 Student Enrolment, Fees and Charges Policy and Procedure